



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 19 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. John L. Howard, Jr.
Chair
National Advisory Council for Environmental
Policy and Technology
Vinson & Elkins, LLP
2801 Via Fortuna, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78746

Dear Mr. Howard:

I thank the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology and its Environmental Technology Subcommittee for the thoughtful and comprehensive recommendations in the report titled *EPA Technology Programs and Intra-Agency Coordination*. These recommendations have stimulated the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to examine how best to promote the use of innovative technology in carrying out its mission.

You will be pleased to learn that the Subcommittee's report has already helped promote change and achieve positive results. The EPA Technology Development Continuum chapter is a valuable resource as EPA evaluates its programs, as well as an information source for technology developers and users seeking guidance and support from EPA. The Agency has already used the information to restructure the one-stop-shop Environmental Technology Opportunities Portal on its Web site to provide a coherent roadmap of EPA's technology programs.

The report's 15 recommendations were reviewed by the Agency's Science Policy Council. The SPC also sought input from the Environmental Technology Council on how to respond to each of the recommendations. The ETC considered not only the recommendations themselves, but also how they could be implemented and sustained. As a result, the SPC approved four recommended actions that essentially embrace the whole of the NACEPT report recommendations:

1. Establish a Senior Environmental Technology Officer who will be the focal point for key activities recommended in the report like establishing priorities, chairing the ETC, facilitating cross-agency coordination and information sharing, working with the business community and other stakeholders, and developing metrics for measuring effectiveness.

2. Establish the Environmental Technology Council as a core Agency activity with more senior-level membership accountable for results.
3. Establish a Regional Environmental Technology Advocacy Network comprised of a technology advocate in each region to identify opportunities to use technology to achieve better results, share information within the Agency and with stakeholders, serve as liaison with technology programs across the Agency, and serve as member of the ETC.
4. Create an Environmental Technology Verification and Assessment Staff coordinated by the National Risk Management Research Laboratory to provide enhanced technology support to the SETO and the rest of the Agency on issues like technology verifications, state-of-the-art assessments, technology development collaborations, and encouraging sustainability.

We have decided to move forward to implement these recommendations. It is important that EPA increasingly be engaged in promoting and facilitating cost-effective solutions to environmental challenges. Obviously, the implementation of these recommendations has resource implications that must be taken into consideration as we define the specifics of our actions. Dr. George Gray, EPA Science Advisor and Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development, will lead our implementation efforts. Dr. Gray and I will keep the Council informed as we move forward.

I understand that a second report with recommendations from the Environmental Technology Subcommittee will be delivered early next year. We look forward to working with NACEPT as we consider the recommendations in that report.

Again, my thanks to NACEPT and the Technology Subcommittee for its advice and assistance in helping EPA meet its commitment to promote innovative technology in carrying out its mission.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson

cc: Marcus Peacock, Deputy Administrator
George Gray, Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development
Rafael DeLeon, Director, Office of Cooperative Environmental Management
Phil Helgersen, Chair, Environmental Technology Subcommittee

Handwritten notes:
- "I'll be back!"
- "getting together again for leadership!"
- "Sorry to have my forward in January" (written twice)
- "you look forward in January" (written twice)
- "you look forward in January" (written twice)